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## **PRESS RELEASE**

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
**February 3, 2003**

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# **“OPERATION BOOTLEG” CONTINUES ON NAVAJO RESERVATION - ARRESTS MADE**

**PHOENIX, ARIZONA** -- Paul K. Charlton, United States Attorney for the District of Arizona, announced today that individuals were again being arrested in “Operation Bootleg” on the Navajo reservation. Charges were filed last week in Federal Court alleging that Ophelia Heyde sold various types and quantities of alcohol to undercover officers. Three other individuals have also been arrested. Heyde was among the first group of those arrested in “Operation Bootleg” in August 2001.

Ophelia Heyde was found guilty on October 30, 2002, of violating Title 18 of the United States Code, Section 1154(a), the unlawful dispensing of intoxicating liquor. Heyde was sentenced to probation for a period of one year by United States District Magistrate Judge Stephen L. Verkamp. A petition on probation was filed with the District Court January 31, 2003, charging Heyde with Unlawful Dispensing of Alcoholic Beverages. Heyde was arrested and an initial appearance was held in District Court in Flagstaff, Arizona, on February 3, 2003.

(MORE)

A conviction for violating Title 18 U.S.C. Section 1154(a) or Title 21 U.S.C. Section 844(a) carries a maximum penalty of one year in jail and a \$100,000 fine or both.

Mr. Charlton stated that the contribution of alcohol and drug abuse to violent crimes is a problem which spans the District of Arizona from the Utah border to the Mexican border, and that "Operation Bootleg" is intended to reduce such crimes.

Studies by the United States Attorney's Office have shown that the majority of violent crimes investigated by the FBI within the Navajo Nation in Arizona, New Mexico and Utah involve assailants who are under the influence of alcohol, and that "Operation Bootleg" is intended to put those individuals who engage in the unlawful sale of alcohol on the Navajo Nation on notice that the FBI and the Navajo Department of Law Enforcement intend to aggressively pursue prosecution of bootleggers in Federal Court.

The prosecution is being handled by Joe Lodge, Assistant United States Attorney, District of Arizona, Flagstaff, Arizona.

CASE NUMBER: 02-4119-M  
RELEASE NUMBER: 2003-016

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